

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, in the board room of the Town Hall building was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 6:45 p.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor
Larry R. Jones, Councilman
Michael R. Park, Councilman
Barry E. Warren, Councilman
Kevin M. Williams, Councilman
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Linda Jones, Cortland County Legislator
Gordon Wheelock, Cortland County Legislator
Eugene Wright, Chairman, Town of Homer Planning Board
Terre & Lee Dennis, residents, Village of Homer
Ward Dukelow, resident, Village of Homer
Don Fisher, Councilman, Town of Preble, and member of C-OFOKLA
Tarki Heath, President, C-OFOKLA
Kristin and Meredith, Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center
Donald Ferris, reporter, The Homer News
Brad Smith, reporter, WXHC
Nick Graziano, reporter, Cortland Standard
David Alexander, Cortlandville Town Justice and candidate for County Judge

Supervisor Forbes thanked Deputy Supervisor Michael Park and Town Clerk Jebbett for holding down the fort while he recovered from his illness.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 8th regular meeting, the March 30th special meeting and the March 31st bid opening were approved as presented, on motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

1. The Town Clerk's monthly report of all receipts and disbursements for March.
2. The Tax Collector's summary of all tax receipts through March.
3. The Supervisor's monthly report of all receipts and disbursements for March.
4. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued for March.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #53 through #74 totaling \$7,497.68 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #44 through #60 totaling \$16,621.62 be approved for payment.**

NEW BUSINESS

Solar law – On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Attorney Snyder make the recommended change to the section on minor solar systems, requiring site plan review for any residential systems not located on a roof, and that the revised solar law be reviewed by both the Town Planning Board and the County Planning Department and/or Board prior to being voted on by the Town Board.**

Little York Lake – Don Fisher, a member of the Preble Town Board, gave Board members a copy of a comprehensive management plan for Little York Lake, part of which is located in the Town of Homer. Besides Fisher, Councilman Park is a member of the committee that developed the plan, along with members of the Little York Lake Preservation Society, Cortland County Soil & Water District, and a representative from the Cortland County Legislature. Board members were asked to review the plan.

Tarki Heath, the president of the Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lakes Associations, C-OFOKLA, and two representatives of the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center were present to discuss the grant that they have received from the National Fish & Wildlife Fund to study ways to remediate the potential harmful impacts of stormwater on the glacially-formed kettle lakes which have been overrun by invasive species, such as the zebra mussel and variable leaf milfoil. The Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District is helping with this project. C-OFOKLA is planning to hold public meetings in the fall with the results of their study.

Supervisor Forbes noted that the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation or CAFO laws have greatly restricted the spreading of manure from large farms and over time will reduce the phosphorous that runs into the lakes. He suggested that C-OFOKLA contact Scott Cook, from the local office of the NYSDEC, to advise them regarding run-off from farming operations.

Attorney Snyder questioned one of their concerns that referred to the installation of gas pipelines or propane storage facilities as “undesirable infrastructure”.

Supervisor Forbes thanked them all for their presentations and looks forward to finding some solutions to the Lake’s problems.

Candidate for County Judge – David Alexander, currently one of two Cortlandville Town Justices, introduced himself as a candidate for County Judge. The current Judge, William Ames, is planning to retire at the end of the year. Alexander reviewed his background and education and why he feels that he is the best candidate for the position. He thanked the Town Board for their time.

OLD BUSINESS

Block grant – Supervisor Forbes reported that the Town has received a single bid on the request for proposals for the administration of the Community Development Block Grant that has been awarded to the Town for housing rehabilitation.

On motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the bid for the grant administration of the 2016 Town of Homer CDBG for Housing Rehabilitation be awarded to Thoma Development Consultants, Cortland, for \$69,000, subject to the availability of the State funds.**

Village Offices – There was discussion about the expected decision since the recent election of the Village Board to move their offices back to the Town Hall building. Forbes said that the Village would be redirecting their \$150,000 grant from State Senator James Seward towards the purchase of a fire truck, after finding out that it would not be able to be used to renovate space in the Town Hall for offices since the Village does not own the building.

On motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously, **RESOLVED: that once a letter of intent from the Village Board to move the offices back to the Town Hall is received, the Town will hire an architect to make recommendations for the reconfiguration of the office space available in the Town Hall.**

Bridge Committee – Supervisor Forbes reported that the Town now plans to replace the Pine Street Bridge instead of the Wall Street Bridge, on the advice of engineers. Councilman Park said that the Town Board needs to have input from the Village prior to moving ahead with their plans.

Forbes suggested that perhaps the bridge project could be placed on a County-wide grant application for projects to be completed by the Innovation Readiness Training or IRT team, a training program for the U.S. military which includes military engineers and builders. Councilman Park said that he would like the preliminary paperwork on the bridge project to be completed as soon as possible, including a SEQRA review, in hope of qualifying for a grant.

Ward Dukelow said that he owns property on both Wall and Pine Streets and pointed out that Pine Street is narrower than Wall. Supervisor Forbes said that although Wall is preferable in many ways, mainly for traffic flow, the engineers are recommending Pine Street due to the location of so many obstacles at the Wall Street Bridge, including a street drain, a sewerage pumping station, and an electric substation. Councilman Park said that they intend to address Dukelow's concerns.

Annual Financial Report – Supervisor Forbes said that the annual financial report or update document (AUD) for 2016 has been filed with the State Comptroller's Office. Any board member or resident wishing to review it may do so during office hours.

Homer Fire Department - Councilman Warren volunteered to attend the Annual Dinner of the Homer Fire Department held in April as the Town Board's representative.

Zoning Board of Appeals member – Forbes said that because ZBA member David Deasy has now sold his house and moved out of the area, he would like Board members to bring suggestions for a new member to the May 3rd meeting.

Town Hall steps – Councilman Warren said that once again it appears that the front steps to the Town Hall are moving out away from the building. He said that he would be consulting with a contractor about the best way to address the problem.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR

County Legislator Gordon Wheelock gave a summary of activities at the Cortland County Legislature over the past month, including window replacement at the County Court House through the SmartWatt program, more discussion on the proposed jail and landfill issues, and a proposed hike in County sales tax, from 8% to 8.5%. There was much discussion on all of these issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk